

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 290900Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5869

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3596

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: KU, CE, PFOR, PORG, UN, US

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: KUWAI POSITION AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED
MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 181500, (B) STATE 181897, (C) STATE 178439

SUMMARY: EMBOFFS JULY 28 MADE DEMARCHES RE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED
MEETING (REF A) WITH MOST SENIOR MFA OFFICERS AVAILABLE, WHO UNDER-
TOOK CONVEY MESSAGE TO HIGHER LEVELS. RE KOREA KUWAITIS STUCK TO
ESTABLISHED POSITION THAT SOUTH DOREA - NORTH KOREA DIALOGUE IS
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN ANY RESOLUTION, BUT THAT PRESENCE OF
U.S. TROOPS REMAINS AN IRRITANT. ON PUERTO RICO KUWAITIS
PREDICTED THAT NAM MIGHT NAM MIGHT ADOPT LANGUAGE ENDORSING PUERTO
RICAN SELF-DETERMINATION. IF NAC WENT NO FURTHER THAN THIS, THEY
THOUGHT USG SHOULD BE ABLE LIVE WITH IT. END SUMMARY

1. DUE TO ABSENCENG MFA DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL
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AFFAIRS, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, DCM AND POLOFFIMADE DEMARCHE ON

KOREA AND PUERTO RICO (REQUESTED REF A) JULY 28 TO ABDUL AZIZ AL SHAREKH AND NABILAH AL MULLA OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT STAFF. (AFTER CONSULTING US, BRITISH HERE HAVING BEEN ASSIGNED CORE GROUP RESPONSIBILITY, HAD ALREADY MADE SIMILAR DEMARCHE ON KOREA TO HEAD OF OFFICE OF UN AFFAIRS, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.) EMBOFFS ONLY PRESENTED AIDE MEMOIRE ON PUERTO RICO.

2. CONCERNING KOREA, KUWAITIS SAID THEY WERE QUITE SURE THAT RATIONALE FOR KUWAIT'S WELL ESTABLISHED UN POSITION WOULD FORM BASIS FOR KUWAIT POSITION ON KOREAN ISSUE AT COLOMBO NAM. KUWAIT CONFIRMED FAVOR ENCOURAGING TWO KOREAS TO DISCUSS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM IN THE INTEREST OF MOVING TOWARD A UNIFIED KOREA IN FUTURE. KUWAITIS AGREED THAT ANY NEGOTIATION OF THESE DIFFERENCES, INCLUDING MOFICATION OF ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, MUST INCLUDE SOUTH KOREA. ON OTHER HAND, KUWAITIS SAW PRESENCE OF US TROOPS (WHETHER UNDER UN OR US COMMAND) AS IRRITANT TO RELATIONS AND GOOD REASON FOR NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES TO EXPRESS THEIR DISPLEASURE AT NAM.

3. KUWAITIS ALSO INDICATED THAT NAC COORDCUNATING COMMITTEE, (NACC) MEETING IN COLOMBO BEFORE SUMMIT MIGHT WISH TONE DOWN RHETORIC OF NON-ALIGNED SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN POSITION WHICH EMERGED IN DOCUMENTS PRODUCED AT ALGIERS NACC MEETING. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, KUWAITIS ADMITTED THAT PARTICIPANTS AT ALGIERS MAY HAVE REACHED SOME HASTY CONCLUSIONS BASED UPON INSUFFICIENT STUDY. KUWAITIS ADDED THAT KUWAIT WAS ONE OF THOSE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS WHICH COULD AFFORD TO BE "OBJECTIVE" ON KOREAN QUESTION AND WOULD NOT BE SWEEPED ALONG BY HARD LINE SUPPORTERS OF NORTH KOREAN POSITION. RATHER, KUWAIT WILL MEASURE ALGIERS RESULTS AGAINST ITS OWN VIEW OF KOREAN SITUATION AND, EVEN THOUGH NEGOTIATING AT COLOMBO MAY BECOME "WILD," OWING TO FRIENDS OF NORTH KOREA WHO HAVE "NOTHING TO LOSE," KUWAIT WILL VOTE ITW OWN MIND.

4. KUWAITIS MADE POINT THAT KOREAN QUESTION IS OF RELATIVELY LITTLE INTEREST TO KUWAIT. GIVEN GOK'S WELL ESTABLISHED POSITION, THEY ALSO EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT AND MILD IRRITATION AT DEMARCHES BY THE US ON TOP OF THOSE BY BRITISH AND OTHER CORE GROUP MEMBERS, AND IMPLICATION THAT KUWAIT SHOULD SOMEHOW CHANGE ITS POSITION OR TAKE LEADING ROLE AGAINST NORTH KOREA'S FRIENDS AT COLOMBO. EMBOFFS RESPONDED THAT US VIEWS KOREAN QUESTION AS ONE OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE (FOR REASONS OUTLINED REFTELS) AND WAS THEREFORE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTACTING MAY FRIENDLY NON-ALIGNED GOVERNMENTS PRIOR TO NAC, ASKING THAT THEY ATTACH GREATER IMPORTANCE TO KOREAN AFFAIR IN VIEW OF HIGH DEGREE OF USG INTEREST IN OUTCOME.

5. REGARDING PUERTO RICO, KUWAITIS RESPONDED THAT PUERTO RICAN ISSUE MIGHT NOT SURVIVE ALL THE WAY TO NAC SUMMIT, BUT EVEN IF IT DID, THE US SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH EXPECTED RELATIVELY MILD RHETORIC CALLING FOR PUERTO RICAN SELF-DETERMINATION. EMBOFFS REPLIED

BY UNDERLINING POINTS MADE AIDE MEMIORE AND, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS,

EXPLAINED CURRENT COMMENWEALTH STATUS AND REPATED USG PUBLIC

ASSURANCES OF PUERTO RICAN FREEDOM OF POLITICAL CHOICE REGARDING
TIES WITH U.S.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MFA OFFICERS PROMISED TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE OUR
DEMARCHE TO SENIOR OFFICIALS, WE CAN EXPECT LITTLE IF ANY POSITIVE
GOK RESPONSE. MFA WORKING LEVEL IS THOROUGHLY INFORMED ON BOTH
KOREA AND PUEJTO RICO AND ON USG DESIRES RE THESE ISSUES.
MULTIPLE DEMARCHES ON KOREA CANNOT FAIL TO HAVE IMPRESSED KUWAITIS
WITH IMPORTANCE CORE GROUP MEMBERS ATTACH TO BLUNTING NORTH KOREAN
CAMPAIGN, BUT THIS HARDLY MEANS KUWAITIS WILL TAKE ANY SORT OF LEAD
IN DOING SO. ON PUERTO RICO, IF ISSUE ARISES, IT LOOKS LIKE GOK
WILL IF POSSIBLE WORK TO AVOID OVERLY OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE IN NAC
STATEMENT, BUT WILL NOT FEEL ABLE TO OPPOSE INCLUSION OF RESOLUTION
ON SUBJECT IF NAM LEADERSHIP WISHES ITS INCLUSION.
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